

mound ran southwards 14 yards to a mound, then north-westwards 47 yards to another mound, which was in turn connected to a fourth mound 67 yards away north of west, whence the trail continued another 33 yards to the north-west. Another trail to the south-west connected a side-mound after 13 yards, a further side-mound after another 59 yards, and a smaller side-mound after 6 yards. In another case a side-mound was connected to the main mound by a trail 73 yards long. From each side-mound trails of scouts extended into the bush. It is hoped to make an accurate survey of the whole colony at a later stage. Thanks are due to the Government Entomologist for determining the species.

—J. GENTILI and V. N. SERVENTY, Perth.

Growth of the Blackboy.—Some 30 years ago I took notice of many clumps of blackboys as to their height and length of their branches. These today are some three feet longer or higher. Many now are straggley plants breaking off with the length. In 1913 I chopped the head out of a single-stemmed blackboy. It recovered and today has three branches, three feet long. In another case some young ones came up on a piece of land that had been ploughed; one survived 25 years but died after a fire had got it, when it was about the size of the crown of a hat. I have often seen a wisp of new leaves or rushes grow from the stump of one cut down but not to survive long, for cattle eat these when young. Actually I believe the blackboy grows a foot in 10 years. The flattened leaf stem that forms the peel of the plant is for some years loosely packed but in course of time becomes tightly packed under stress of pressure on expansion of the heart growth and compression downwards by a new growth of top. This accounts for a slowing up appearance. A blackboy hardly grows at all where stock can get at its young tops but if it is beyond their reach it grows comparatively quickly. Also in unsuitable soils and weather conditions it may always be a short stunted, slow-growing plant. The soil that suits it is the deep black loam between granite rocks among the hills, associated with red gum or marri trees.

—J. M. HARVEY, Thomson's Brook.

Tree Martin (*Hylochelidon nigricans*) Nesting in Wooden Buildings.—On July 26, 1947, I noted a number of Tree Martins under shop verandahs at Perenjori. This behaviour on the part of these birds seemed unusual, but I concluded that a sheltered perch was the only attraction. When I next visited Perenjori, on September 5, Tree Martins were again in evidence and were apparently breeding. One bird was observed at a nest under a shop verandah. The site was a narrow recess between two rafters. A considerable amount of mud had been used to build up the front of the nest, which, in fact, superficially resembled that of a Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*), except that it was built on the top of a beam and not on a vertical support. Martins were again noted under verandahs at Perenjori on July 17, 1948.

Tree Martins were apparently breeding under the eaves of the hotel at Morawa when I visited that town on August 29, 1948.